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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group: 1725
Confirmation No.: 1054
Application No.: 10/040,092
Invention: STRIP CASTING APPARATUS
Applicant: Kato et al.
Filed: October 19, 2001
Attorney
Docket: 29385-68773
Examiner: Kuang Y Lin

Certificate Under 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

on

February 12, 2003
Kim Tyree
(Signature)

Kim Tyree

(Printed Name)

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

BOX

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This statement is filed in the application identified above pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2). No representation is intended that a complete search has been made of the prior art or that no better art references than listed below are available. A copy of each reference is provided for review by the Examiner. The filing of this Statement shall not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in the Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56(b).

Although a first Official Action has now issued in this case, the information contained in this information disclosure statement was not cited in any communication from an international searching authority in a counterpart international application, and, to the undersigned's knowledge, no item of information disclosure was known to any individual

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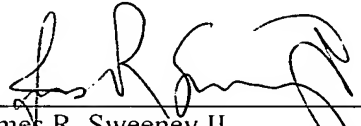
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designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this supplemental information disclosure statement. Applicants believe no fee is due; however, if any fee should be found to be due in connection with the filing of this supplemental information disclosure statement; then the Commissioner is authorized to charge such additional fee(s) that might be due to our deposit account no. 10-0435 with reference to our file 29385-71225. An extra copy of this Information Disclosure Statement is enclosed for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted,
BARNES & THORNBURG

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James R. Sweeney II', written over a horizontal line.

James R. Sweeney II
Attorney Registration No. 45670

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INDS02 JRS565452v1